

Abstract

The present invention relates to a data carrier, in particular a smart card, as is used for an electronic purse for example.

Such data carriers may contain a display that may be used for indicating the credit balance present in the electronic purse. To operate the display a battery is provided. If the display is operated inadvertently this leads to rapid discharge of the battery, thereby reducing the life of the data carrier altogether.

In the present invention, inadvertent discharge of the battery is avoided by a device for detecting the usability or probability of use of the display. If the device detects that the display cannot be used or that the probability of the display being used is low, the device deactivates the display.